

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /010 W
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O 141059Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8403

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EYES ONLY FOR CONSTABLE FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ATRN, EPAP

SUBJECT: IMPORTATION OF WILD ANIMAL SKIN COAT

1. MRS. BYROADE HAS REAL NEED FOR HER LEOPARD COAT IN CONNECTION WITH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES DURING BHUTTO VISIT, BUT IS CONCERNED THAT CUSTOMS MIGHT TAKE THE COAT AWAY FROM HER IN VIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED IN STATE 281010. SHE HAS NO OTHER SUITABLE COAT FOR THESE SOCIAL OCCASIONS, AND LEAVING IT HERE WILL MEAN QUITE AN UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURE. I HAVE DEVELOPED BELOW A CERTIFICATE WHICH I AM PREPARED TO SIGN AND GIVE TO CUSTOMS IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT IT. SHE IS DOUBTFUL AND WILL OBVIOUSLY WORRY ALL THE WAY TO THE STATES AS TO WHETHER SHE MIGHT END UP COATLESS AT THE AIRPORT.

2. I AM SORRY TO BE SO LATE IN THIS REQUEST BUT HOPE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GET A READING WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE AS TO WHETHER CUSTOMS WILL ACCEPT THIS CERTIFICATE. WE WILL TAKE TO COAT WITH US TO KARACHI TOMORROW AND NOT LEAVE THERE UNTIL 0320 HOURS ON THURSDAY. IF WE RECEIVE NO REPLY, OR DOUBTFUL REPLY, FROM YOU, WE WILL LEAVE TO COAT IN KARACHI AND I WILL TRY TO TALK TO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WHILE I AM HOME AS TO WHAT WE CAN DO NEXT TIME THIS PROBLEM ARISES. THE WORDING OF MY CERTIFICATE WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PERSONALLY OWNED LEOPARD SKIN COAT

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BELONGING TO MRS. HENRY A. BYROADE WAS MADE BY AND PURCHASED

FROM THE SIBERIAN FUR COMPANY IN HONG KONG IN 1966. IT WAS FIRST TAKEN TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1968 WHICH WAS, OF COURSE, WELL BEFORE LEGISLATION AFFECTING SUCH IMPORTS. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT TIME, THIS COAT WAS TAKEN TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES ON TWO OTHER OCCASIONS.

THE FUR COAT REFERRED TO ABOVE WAS MADE FROM LEOPARD SKINS PRESENTED TO ME AS GIFTS BY LOCAL OFFICIALS IN NORTHERN BURMA DURING MY TOUR OF DUTY AS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES TO BURMA DURING THE PERIOD OF THE MID 1960'S. AFTER ITS MANUFACTURE IN HONG KONG IT WAS TAKEN BACK TO BURMA IN A LEGAL MANNER THROUGH CUSTOMS THERE. IT WAS LIKEWISE LEGALLY SHIPPED FROM BURMA IN THAT IT WAS A PART OF THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF MRS. BYROADE THAT RECEIVED CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. THERE WAS NO PAPER WORK REQUIRED OR GIVEN AS REGARDS THIS PARTICULAR ITEM AS THIS WAS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH BURMESE PRACTICE.

THIS FUR COAT HAS AT ALL TIMES BEEN UTILIZED BY MRS. BYROADE AS A PART OF HER PERSONAL EFFECTS AND NEVER HELD IN ANY WAY IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY. SIGNED: HENRY A. BYROADE, AMBASSADOR. END QUOTE.
BYROADE

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